7. Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Additional Secretary to Government*).
8. Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai (*Chief Secretary to Government*).
9. Mr. E. G. Salter (*Director of Transport*).
10. Mr. S. N. Ure (*Public Service Commissioner*).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Price of rice.

1. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Karthikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that local rice is sold openly at 16 and even 18 chuckrams per 'pukka' in Travancore; and

(*b*) if so, whether this practice does not defeat the purpose of the policy of controlling the price of rice which Government seek to avoid?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Additional Secretary to Government*): (*a*) & (*b*) Instances of violation of the provisions of Notification fixing the maximum price of rice and paddy have been brought to the notice of Government and in such cases necessary action under the law has been taken.

Price of rice.

2. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have fixed the price of rice made from local paddy?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: No.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know from the honourable member whether the price of the local rice has been fixed as yet?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: It has not been fixed. The matter is under consideration.

Supply of rice and paddy.

3. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether their attempts at getting a regular supply of rice and paddy from British India or elsewhere have been successful; and

(*b*) if so, to what extent?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, though not to the extent considered requisite by this Government.

Shortage of small coins.

4. ***Mr. James Fletcher** (*Kalkulam and Vilavancode* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state.

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(*a*) whether they are aware of the scracity of small coins for circulation in the State ;

(*b*) whether any fresh copper coins have been minted for meeting this situation ; and

(*c*) whether any steps have been taken for preventing the hoarding of small coins ?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. New copper coins are being minted and issued from 25-5-1118.

(*c*) Yes. The honourable member's attention is invited to the Press Communique issued under date 11-1-1943/27-5-1118, a copy of which is placed on the table.*

Silver and copper coins.

5. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they noticed in the people a tendency to hoard silver and copper coins ; and

(*b*) if so, what steps they have taken to check that tendency?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to part (*c*) of interpellation No. 4 [26.]

Hoarding of copper and silver coins.

6. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether hoarding of copper and silver coins is punishable in Travancore ?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar : Yes, under Rule 29 of the Defence of Travancore Rules. The honourable member's attention is also invited to the Press Communique issued under date 11th January 1943 (27th Dhanu 1118).

Fee concessions in schools.

7. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) whether it is a convention that fee concession once granted to a pupil in any one section is allowed to be enjoyed by that pupil till the end of the course, unless he forfeits it as per fee concession rules ;

(*b*) whether headmasters of schools are competent to withdraw and award it to another pupil before the end of the course on the ground that the latter is poorer ; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, will they be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of cases

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[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar]

if any during 1941-42 in the departmental schools where fee concession once granted to a pupil was withdrawn before the end of the course and awarded to another pupil on the ground that the latter is poorer ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*) :

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to part (*b*).

Appendix.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 4**

COMMUNIQUE.

Government have, for some time past, been noticing an abnormal tendency on the part of the public for the absorption of the small coins of the State. This is evident from the following figures of absorption during the three years 1113, 1115 and 1117 ;—

	Silver coins to the face value of Rs.	*Copper coins to the face value of* Rs.
1113 ...	75,099	4,731
1115 ...	4,76,115	20,157
1117 ...	12,95,815	3,49,542

Though the Government are fully alive to the fact that there is bound to be a reasonable increase in small coin requirements due to the increased economic activity at present, it cannot be to such an abnormal extent as evidenced by the above figures. Such abnormal absorption naturally leads to the irresistible inference of the hoarding of these small coins, thereby tending to prevent their free circulation. It also discloses to a certain extent a desire for the exploitation of the present situation by certain individuals with a view to profiteering. As such hoarding of small coins is likely to paralyse business of all kinds, Government wish to invite the co-operation of the public so as to prevent the accumulation of such coins in a few hands. Government alone may not be completely able to help the free circulation of coins, so very essential for the economic prosperity of the people and are doing their best to supply small coins to a large extent. Out of Rs. 55 lakhs worth of small coins issued till now, nearly Rs. 12 lakhs of coins were minted and issued in 1117 alone. Arrangements have been made to mint and issue as much coins as possible during this year. Local manufacture of copper blanks and minting has also recently been started and the new coins are being issued from 25th Dhanu 1118.

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Government look to the public and the Press to do all that is necessary and possible to prevent the hoarding of the coins. Government also wish to draw the attention of all concerned to the fact that under Rule 90 of the Defence of Travancore Rules, the acquiring of coins in excess of minimum personal or business requirements and dealings in small coin at other than the face value is illegal and punishable.

Huzur Cutcherry, A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR,
Trivandrum, 11th January 1943. *Financial Secretary to Government.*

DEWAN-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

President: Order, order. I have directed the Secretary to this Council to place on the table of the House for the information of the honourable members a proof of the remarks that I made at the session of the sister House. It would, however, not be seemly nor would it convey my idea of the importance of the House if I were to content myself with having done that. And therefore with your permission, I propose to address a few remarks by way of summarising the document that I have placed on the table of the House and also a few remarks by way of a supplement. But before I do so, there are one or two preliminary announcements to be placed before the House.

On account of the acceleration of the timing it has been generally found that 11 o' clock would be inconvenient to many members for meeting and therefore, if the House sees no objection, from tomorrow and subsequent sessions of the House whenever it meets, the House will meet at 12 o' clock to suit the convenience of the honourable members. There is no need to amend the standing orders, but this will be observed as a convention.

In view of the very great importance and urgency of the food problem in relation to the supply and the gathering of rice within and without the State and the matters connected with the production and distribution of tapioca, I have, as honourable members would notice, devoted considerable time in the course of these remarks to such topics. It is the intention of the Government in this matter to solicit, and to act according to, the opinions of the representatives of the people. I have therefore requested the members of the other House to stay on for a day or two so that informally the members of this honourable House and the other House might meet together this evening and if necessary tomorrow evening also for the purpose of dealing with the question and putting forward any suggestion by way of an amendment or by way of pointing out mistakes that have been committed or by suggesting further programme of action in regard to this most vital and crucial matter

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